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# NEW JERSEY MEDICAL REPORTER.

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## *Observations on the medical virtues of some of the most prominent Indigenous Vegetables grown in Vermont.*

NUMBER IV.

By Ariel Hunton, M. D.

### DIAPHORETICS.

We are abundantly supplied in this region with vegetables, which are endowed with diaphoretic properties, some slightly, others in an eminent degree, so much so, that we are not in want of any foreign vegetables of this class.

The indigenous medicated plants ought to receive more attention from the medical profession, and they should use all that can be substituted for foreign drugs. Lobelia is as powerful a diaphoretic in my estimation, as any in the Materia Medica, and must be placed at the head of the class; it is not by itself a stimulant.

**Eupatorium Perfoliatum,**—*Thoroughwort* is much, and safely used as a diaphoretic; used in infusion, drank warm, *ad libitum*. It has tonic properties, is also an alterative; is in universal use in domestic practice. Although I mentioned this plant in my second article, I could not well pass it by, it being so useful a diaphoretic.

**Anthemis Cotula,**—*Mayweed* is in general use to promote perspiration, especially in eruptive diseases and colds. There is one objection to the two last articles, the taste is nauseous, and disagreeable to most patients.

**Arctium Lappa,**—*Burdock,*—the seed of this plant is by some thought to be the most reliable and less stimulating than any of the class. It is used in infusion, drank warm.

**Asarum Canadense,**—*Wild Ginger, White Snakeroot* is much used to open the closed pores of the cutis.

**Pinus Canadensis,**—*Hemlock*—an infusion of the leaves of this tree is much used as a diaphoretic. This article and the last, are too stimulating to be used indiscriminately, but are quite useful where the febrile action is moderate.

All our mints are stimulating diaphoretics, and useful to restore checked perspiration, or at the commencement of a cold, to arrest a catarrhal fever.

**Chenopodium Album,**—*Pigweed;* an infusion of this plant will restore perspiration without stimulation or increasing the febrile action. All teas to restore perspiration, should be taken warm to be effectual.

## DIURETICS.

There are many articles of this class growing among us, a few of which I shall describe. The sap of the sugar maple, when it can be obtained, is a prompt diuretic—it operates powerfully on the kidneys, will remove promptly *Ardor urinæ;* the micturition will be free and easy, and the urine clear, and deprived of its ichorous quality.

**Erigeron Heterophyllum,**—*Fleabane Prideweed.* Two species are in use in this vicinity as a diuretic, the disk of the blossom of both species are yellow, the ray florets of the above named are purple, or pale blue; those of the E. Philadelphicum are white. Both grow abundantly in our mow fields, pastures, and way-side. The medical properties of both are similar, an infusion drank warm will usually increase the renal secretion.

**Fraxinus acuminata,**—*White Ash.* This tree is placed in Botany in the Dioecious Class, the staminate and pistilate flowers occupy separate trees; the fruit, or pericarp, the part used, is found only on the female tree,—an infusion drank freely is a useful stimulus to the kidneys. The bark has a similar effect in a less degree.

**Digitalis Purpurea,**—*Foxglove.* This is an exotic naturalized plant; is in universal use as a diuretic. In cases where it is desirable to diminish arterial action this is a beneficial prescription, but if the object is merely to increase the renal discharge, the next article I will describe is preferable.

**Asclepias Syriaca,**—*Common Milkweed, Silkweed.* This plant bears a pod containing seeds, and a down resembling cotton, which has been manufactured into articles of wearing apparel in this State. The root of this article is the part used, and is a valuable addition to the Materia Medica; it is a safe and efficient diuretic, if the operation needs acceleration, add to the decoction, nitrate of potash or nitric æther, and take a wine glass full every half hour. By reference to my note book I learn,

that May 15th, 1839, I tapped Mrs. P. of Johnson, and evacuated from the abdomen 14 quarts of fluid; I ordered her to drink freely a decoction of this root, which she used as occasion required, while living in this vicinity, which was some five years. She then moved to Ohio, and died of some other disease not now in my memory. Her health was such, while living in this vicinity, that she was able to attend to her domestic affairs.

Asclepias is also a diaphoretic, and in large quantities will operate as an emetic.

**Galium Aparine,**—*Cleavus* is an article of which I am in daily use in paucity of urine, or nearly all diseases of the urinary organs; to abate the irritation in venereal affections. It must not be boiled, but made in infusion in a closely covered vessel removed from the fire. To Oss. add ten grains Nit. Pot., a wine glass full every hour until relief is obtained, by an accelerated flow of urine.

**Sambucus Ebulus,**—*Dwarf Elder* is much used in domestic practice, and by those denominated *root doctors*, but little used by the faculty; it is a valuable article.

**Sambucus Canadensis,**—*Sweet Elder* has many medical qualities—the blossoms are a laxative and nervine, the bark and root are laxative, and eminently alterative, every part of the plant may be used as an alterative. It being so much more convenient to procure the root, I use that almost exclusively, and principally in a syrup for its alterative qualities, as I have used this with others for many years; I here insert the recipe.

ALTERATIVE SYRUP.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ℞ | Rad. Sambucus Can. | lb. j. |
| | " Rumex Crispus, | |
| | " Artium Lappa, a a | lb. ss. |
| | Leontodon Taraxacum (rad. et fol.) | lb. ss. |
| | Phytolacca Decan. | ℥j. |

The roots to be used green, bruised, and a decoction made with Cong. iss. of water, and sugar added to the taste, and in warm weather a small quantity of alcohol to preserve it.

If the habit is costive and the above does not obviate that symptom, add Cort. Juglans Cinerea, ℥iv. If the patient has a cough, spikenard and fir boughs may be added.

HYDEPARK, *October* 10, 1854.

### *Dr. Denny's Theses.*

WE made some remarks in the REPORTER for August last, (p. 371,) on an address read by Dr. A. Denny, before the Medical Association for the State of Alabama, and that gentleman complains that we have done him injustice, and claims the right of explaining his position on the points at issue. Having no desire to misrepresent Dr. Denny, we allow him considerable space in our present issue, in which, if we mistake not, our readers will find a more convincing proof of the correctness of our criticism, than we could possibly give.

The thirty-nine "articles" or theses, which follow, are not a moiety of what we have received from Dr. Denny, whose whole production reaches the number of ninety-two theses, only three less than were propounded by Martin Luther as the basis of his successful crusade against indulgences, and which eventuated in a glorious reformation. If a considerable number of our readers should express a desire to see the remaining fifty-three of these propositions in print, we may perhaps gratify them, although we think that we have allowed Dr. Denny as much space as he can reasonably ask.

Dr. Denny it will be observed, claims a profound respect for what he denominates religion, and it is against what we regard as his low views of religion and its divine author that we contend.

In the language of a recent writer, it would seem as if the battle of the evidences was about to be fought over again in the medical journals. The unity or plurality of the origin of the human race, types of mankind, geological theories and speculations, obscure physiological and psychological hypotheses founded on imperfectly performed experiments, with materialistic and rationalistic notions, are brought to bear, one after another, upon the truths of revealed religion. Be it so: every such attempt, like those hitherto made, will in the end but serve to establish these truths on a firmer basis, and put to shame and confusion those who oppose themselves to them.

Let those who are disposed, bring Deity down to a level with their own pre-conceived notions, or offer holocausts to science "falsely so called," but let them not occupy the time of medical societies, or fill the pages of medical journals with their speculations.

We presume that it is because the studies of physicians lie so much in the direction of natural and physical science, that their names are so frequently brought before the public as opponents of the truths of revealed religion. We hold that there is no tendency in these studies of themselves to lead to skepticism, and unless the mind of the student has a skeptical bias, we should rather expect to find in him profound reverence for those truths, and exalted conceptions of Deity.

It will be observed that Dr. Denny quotes scripture largely, yet in a private note he disavows any of his references as *proof*, or *authority*. Authority we must have, from some source—Archimedes must have a lever and a prop if he would lift the world; so, in regard to the point at issue, we

would want something more stable than unaided human reason, a *point d'appui* that will be a reliable, an unfailing support. This, we recognize in the pages of Holy Writ—if therefore, we felt disposed to argue with Dr. D., and if our pages were a proper vehicle for such a discussion, we could not meet him for lack of a common ground to stand upon.

Far be it from us to find fault with any man for recognizing the Almighty *through* his works. Like

> "— The poor Indian, whose untutored mind,
> Sees God in clouds, and hears him in the wind,"

we would acknowledge Deity in them all. But it is against what we consider the error of seeing Deity *in* his works that we contend. These with the patriarch of old, we regard as "only parts of His ways," for "how little a portion is heard of Him," and "the thunder of His power, who can understand?"

It is to be regretted that Dr. Denny has burdened his text so with references. He has evidently taken great pains with his manuscript, which we believe we have followed literally. The references to sections above the fortieth, will come in place, should the remainder of the paper be published.—[Ed. N. J. Med. Rep.

Messrs. Editors:—Believing that you are not disposed to render injustice, either by omission or commission, to any person, or to any subject of consideration, we have concluded to *explain* ourselves, in *replying* to your notice of August, 1854. There being no personal acquaintance between ourselves and the author of the notice, we shall neither give nor receive any individual reflections. The *primary* (§18, 41, 42,) importance of the subject, and an imperfect command of imperfect language, may excuse the length of this communication.

Yours truly,

Suggsville, Ala., *Sept.*, 1854. A. DENNY.

§1. We do not expect, by this communication, to alter the opinions or beliefs of any such men as may have *committed* themselves to the 'dogmas of their age,' or to systems of *belief*, rather than have preserved and exercised that glorious liberty—that *inalienable* freedom—which certain knowledge of the truth (i.e. Science) ensures: (John viii. 32. §13, 27, 44, 46, 47, 50–53, 62, 63, 86. 1 John ii. 26, 27.)

§2. Such men for instance, as those who have many, and discordant beliefs, with but little, if any, certain knowledge of who is, or where dwells God; or when, where, or in what mode He continually reveals Himself to man, (§44, 47–50, 69, 72, 83.) p. 23, 24, 29.*

*The pages appear to refer to Dr. Denny's address as published in the *Transactions of the Medical Association for the State of Alabama.* Mobile: 1854.—[Ed.

§ 3. For, the *belief* (§13,) of such men, either practically predominates over what little knowledge they may have, or, the one so counteracts the other in *their* minds, that, while their belief prevents them from making the fullest possible use of, and from increasing their certain knowledge; their certain knowledge, at the same time, prevents the constant and practical exercise of their belief—(Jas. ii. 14–26.)

§ 4. Men, whose *faith* (§ 13, 16, 17, 44, 45,) is without corresponding works, and DEAD; particularly as regards the *actual* omnipresence (Gen. iii. 4, and iv. 16,) of God—men who treat *His actual and continual presence* with *practical* (*but not professed*,) disregard, or even denial (§ 44,) or, still worse, with virtual contempt. (§72.)

§ 5. We do not expect to alter the opinions of men, who, not realizing distinctly and *discriminately* (pp. 21, 22, 25,) what is Science, or even what is the present progress of the human mind in Science, object to all such persons as may point out *any proofs*, that Science is different, in any respect, from their individual conceptions.

§ 6. We do not expect to alter the opinions of *any such* men; and wish not uselessly to incur their maledictions by (p. 20) attempting it: but we *do* expect to correct *some* of the misapprehensions, which may be occasioned in the impartial minds of the readers of pages 371 and 372 of the N. J. MEDICAL REPORTER for August, 1854, respecting an Address, which they have had no opportunity to read: and we *do* expect to exercise the senses and capacities which God has given us, *with* that glorious freedom which He has made inalienable.

§7. As for ourselves, we have not the least desire to "magni*fy* Science" in the least, even were it possible, but we *do* desire to have the fullest possible knowledge of what is actually "the magnitude of Science" "in its fullest sense." (p. 19, 22, § 89, 90. Ps. xxvii. 4.)

§ 8. However, *we* will not *insist* (p. 21) that Science, certain knowledge, known truth, or even all truth, (both known and unknown to us,) has any magnitude at all, provided, any person will fully, precisely, and *discriminately* define, (not what is Science "in its fullest sense," but) *how much of* infinite Science, the human mind is, by Omnipresent Omnipotence, rendered *capable* of understanding. (p. 22. 29. Jer. ix. 24.)

§ 9. The full extent of this *capacity*, however little or great, when *fully* developed by practical exercise, may be called the full *measure of* (p. 22, *not* Science "in its fullest sense," but) Finite Science.

§10. (Whosoever fails to exercise and develope this Godlike (p. 29, § 8. Gen. i. 26) capacity, is guilty of a *very* great sin of omission; next perhaps to the sin of *wilfully* disregarding the *continual* demonstrations

of the ever present God; the unpardonable nature of which, we can *easily understand if we will.* (1 Cor. xv. 35–37. John xviii. 37. Heb. vi. 1–6 and x. 26).

§ 11. The lowest extreme of Finite Science may, *without the least intervention whatever* (§ 65), and *constantly*, be enjoyed by *every* rational being, who certainly knows any thing at all, while the highest (p. 29. §12.) extreme is beyond our precise knowledge: but this much *we know;* that it *must* be originated from, and *a part of*, Infinite Science.

§ 12. In proportion as *belief* is displaced in us, by certain knowledge (§ 44) or Science, in the same proportion is developed our likeness to the Deity—in the same proportion is the ever present Deity unshadowed and enthroned in us (§ 26.), in WHOM neither Faith nor Hope can for a moment abide. (§ 60, 61.)

§ 13. He is Himself alone (without any intervention whatever (p. 24.) not even of language, (p. 21 §43, 48, 52,) either written (Jer. viii. 7, 8,), or spoken) *continually* (§46.) presenting to *every* man His demonstrative proofs, and has given to every man capacities of observation *discrimination*, and understanding; *so that, every* man may (*not believe;* but,) for himself, *know and understand* God, independently of human interference. (Jer. ix. 3, 4, 24, §4, 16, 17, 59, 63, 71, 72, 90.)

§ 14. ☞ The sum total of the design and import of the address was, to invite attention to God's irresistible demonstrations of these (§ 10–13.) important truths; and at the same time entreating, not only *all* professors, but (p. 20) *all men* to profit themselves and others, by the fullest understanding of, and *practical conformity with*, this all-wise, good, and great order of things, which God ever present has established; and is *continually* (§ 46, 47) presenting, *as He alone can* present, to "*every* man that cometh into the world." (John i. 9 and 6, 45. Tit. ii. 11, 12, 1 Cor. xii. 7.)

§ 15. If there be anything in this order of things, or in a knowledge of this order, which is "narrow minded," exclusive, skeptical or "unworthy the age and country in which we live," it *cannot* be charged against *any man;* and we presume that no man, of sound mind, will *dare* to make such charges against the ever living and actually present God; who is no respecter of persons, but who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Jas. iv. 11, 12).

§ 16. Lives there a single man, with "views and sentiments *so* narrow minded, unbecoming *a physican*, and *so* unworthy the age and country in which *we* live;" *so* destitute of reliance upon Omnipresence, as, *before* he knows and understands a ten thousandth part of His demonstrations,

to *assert* that these demonstrations are "unworthy" of our attention, knowledge, understanding, and UNDOUBTING (§ 13,) RELIANCE! Lives there a skeptic *so* corrupted, blind and hardened, as *dare* assert it! (§49).

§ 17. THIS KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING IS SCIENCE; THIS RELIANCE IS TRUE AND UNCORRUPTED RELIGION. (§ 13, 44, 68.)

§ 18. Why have we not *this* reliance? Because we have not, and *will* not have, *this* knowledge. (§ 41, 42, 44, 53, 72.)

§ 19. What OTHER religion can make us averse to *this* religion? But a religion, which is actually, and necessarily, fallible, corruptible, and corrupted! (§ 17, 20, 22, 44, 46, 53, 61, 66, 42.)

§ 20. Does not the ever present God *continually* (§ 47,) offer to each and "*every* man," who is *willingly* led captive (p. 24) by vague (§ 41–43, 53,) assertion and vain (§ 46, 47, 51,) authority, the plainest and most indubitable *proofs*, (§ 39, 72,) that his religion is corrupted, and therefore false! But the *willing* captive *will* not (p. 19, 20,) attend to His *proofs! will* not resume that glorious liberty (which he may have never exercised,) which God has made inalienable.

§ 21. It is not enough that men are naturally religious: *they need also*, the actual and MANIFEST presence of God; for without the light of certain knowledge, they darkly grope in a maze of uncertainties, and lead each other far astray (§ 39, 44, 72.).

§ 22. We *observe*, that such religious persons run into the extremes, either of "zeal of God, but not according to knowledge," (Rom. x. 1, 3.) by blind devotion to *their own* imaginations; or the other extreme of cold and slavish dependance on bare assertions and empty authority. (§ 47, 51.)

§ 23. Such men, *starting* with the best intentions, injure themselves with all whom they may influence; and bring discredit upon their own corrupted, as well as upon "true and uncorrupted religion" (§17,) *in the eyes of* those who are equally ignorant of "uncorrupt religion," but less corrupted by counterfeit religion.

§ 24. We are not aware of *any* "views and sentiments *so* narrow minded, unbecoming *a physician*, and *so* unworthy the age and country in which *we* live," as those which would *neglect to encourage every* body to perceive and acknowledge, *both* verbally and *practically*, and *on all occasions*, the ever present author of *every* branch of science, whether that science be humanly called political, legal or medical: we make no mention of clerical (!) science; for *every* so-called branch of science, is properly theological and religious.

§ 25. Priests, and all other human leaders in so-called religious author-

ity, may be acceptable to all such as merely profess *to believe* in (§12. 13.) a "God high up in heaven;" but the ever present God Himself is *all sufficient* to those who *know* and daily walk with Him—in all their thoughts they rejoice in the actual presence of God *manifest* (§72,) to them (p. 24, 28,). Their consultations are with *God* ever present, *rather* than with man, or man's productions—*they never lose sight of* the only true and ever present God, WHOM, others, blinded by *their so called faith* (§ 44, 72,) prejudice, and corrupted ignorance, *have never seen*.

§ 26. Others may speak to them (§ 49, 50,) *respecting* the invisible God of their belief! but they *prefer* to commune *directly with* God, *ever* actually and *manifestly* present. (Job xlii. 5, 6.)

§ 27. A constant communion directly with Omnipresence, is not only our *greatest possible* good and happiness, but our *greatest possible* and *only infallible* (§ 88,) *security*, against the numberless corruptions, snares, and delusions, with which corrupted men, and men's books, of every age, language, and religion, would divert us therefrom—the act itself is a total defeat of their corrupt designs. (p. 24.)

§ 28. We are not aware of *any* sentiments *so* exclusive or sceptical, as those, which would *practically*, if not professedly, reject the plainest incorruptible demonstrations; and such demonstrations as no other but the ever present God can display; and instead thereof, would persist (§ 63.) in adherence to *necessarily corrupted* systems of *belief*.

§ 29. We confess to the "view," that an invitation toward a full understanding of these exhibitions of the ever present God, is not unbecoming any man, not even *any* physician, nor even any Medical Society, for God Himself (p. 23, 29,) is *ever* extending this invitation to "*every* man that cometh into the world."

§ 30. In justice to the *true professors* (we deal not with the quacks; p. 20, 24,) in law and theology; or rather, in justice to ourselves before them, the notice has made it desirable to quote one sentence from the address. (p. 25.)

§ 31. "We cannot but *observe* that *all* legislations and all religions, of whatever age or nation, are, by reason of their authority over the masses, most powerful instruments for good or evil; for good, in proportion to their consistency with the teachings of science—for evil in proportion to their inconsistency with these instructions," (held out directly by the ever-present God: p. 23, 24.)

§ 32. There are other sentences of similar import, in the abridged print, (p. 20, 21, 22, 29,) and still others in the unabridged manuscript.

§ 33. *If* there *really* be any other *possible* (§ 11, 13, 16, 17,) source of certain knowledge—any other means of enlarging, purifying, and enlightening the mind of "*every* man that cometh into the world," of whatever age, language, or country; *other* than the *continually* (§ 46,47,) repeated demonstrations of Omnipresence; will some *one* who may or may not be "narrow minded," &c., graciously refer us to them! Not authoritatively (p. 24. § 47, 50, 51,) nor by bare assertion; but in the same (§ 41–45, 47,) scientific, and therefore *satisfactory* manner, mode, or order, as that, in which Omnipresence is ever presenting *His demonstrative proofs*, directly to *every* man, who is *willing* to observe and understand them!

§ 34. Vain, corrupted, and presumptive ignorance! *all* demonstrative proofs, on all subjects whatever (§ 48, 50,) are wisely withheld from all human touch, and displayed *only* by Omnipresence Himself. (§ 90.)

§ 35. It may be perceived that *we* place no great *comparative* value, even upon such "sentiments" or *beliefs*, which *are* "according to knowledge;" and that we abhor all sentiments, opinions, or beliefs, which are *not* founded upon certain knowledge.

§ 36. We are not aware of having presumed to express, for the scientific man, *but one* "opinion—subject however to correction (but not to oppobrious epithets)—that the reality constitutes, without a single exception, the only foundation for the development of truth," (p. 24,) for this expression, we hope to be pardoned; since it was intended merely as a generalization of *all* the "views" or "*observations*" (p. 20,) which constitute the address; for the benefit of such as might be subject to "giddiness and confusion in the head." (p. 25.)

§ 37. We entreat the writer of the notice, for the sake of his own painful feelings, to cut out either page 21, or the lower half of page 24, and carry it in his pocket, till some favorable moment when there shall be no ill humour, nor "confusion in the head" and *then*, if he *will* read it *again*, he may discover, that, not any part of the notice is applicable either to any part of the address, or to its author.

§ 38. This unreserved and general reply to the general and *indiscriminate* charges which constitute the notice, might be deemed sufficient; but in a spirit of justice to the importance of the subject, and to all "disciples of science," we wish to further explain; and to show to them that *every* charge, of which the notice is constituted, happens to be refuted in some one, or more than one, part of the address itself!

§ 39. That *no part* of the notice may be neglected, we will remark, that we are not at all surprised at the pain (p. 19,) which is so promi-

nently advanced, as the vanguard of the main body of objections; for we have long since known men (who firmly (§ 63,) *believed* themselves to be, and were popularly *thought* to be, *uncorruptedly* religious,) to say that, they, "were exceedingly pained" at "the dispensations of Providence," while fulfilling *His* (John viii. 17. and xvi. 25. Jer. ix. 4, 24.) law; rather (Jer. viii. 7, 8, 22. § 75, 83, 85, 89,) than at *their own misconceptions* (§ 72. Gen. ii. 10. 1 Cor. xv. 36, 37,) and disregard of His law.

## PROCEEDINGS OF MEDICAL SOCIETIES.

*Extracts from the Minutes of the New York Pathological Society.*

SEPTEMBER 13, 1854.

*Dr. Dalton* exhibited the rectus femoris taken from a person who had died of phthisis. Throughout its extent between the muscular fibres, were observed minute white specks about half the size of a pin's head. The microscope showed them to be specimens of the trichinis spiralis. They existed in smaller numbers in most of the other muscles. They are not perfect animals, having no sexual organs, either testicles or ovaries. They are probably only the embryo of other entozoa.

*Dr. Dalton* exhibited a specimen of the Surrinam toad; its back studded with cells from which its young had been recently hatched. When the eggs are laid, they are attached to the back by mucus. The skin immediately becomes hypertrophied, nearly enclosing the egg. The orifice of the cells thus formed, is closed by a tenacious gum resembling isinglass. Here the eggs are hatched, soon after which, this *uterus upon the back* disappears, the skin again becoming smooth.

*Dr. Post* exhibited a tumour, removed from over the lower part of the patella of a female patient. It was a thickened and altered bursa, a fibro-cartilaginous cyst, containing a curdy matter. It began to grow three years ago, and had been gradually increasing in size since. The integument over the tumour which had ulcerated in part, was one fourth of an inch thick. The patient has done well since the operation, ten days ago.

*Dr. Church* presented the hand of a boy aged 14 years. Amputation had been performed on account of an irregular tumour about 6 inches in diameter, nearly imbedding the hand. At 2 years of age the boy

had fallen, injuring a finger. A small tumour remained. At 11 years of age he again received an injury of the hand, from which time the tumour began to increase in size. It was accompanied by little pain, chiefly from its weight. A few weeks since, ulceration occurred to about the depth of an inch. Amputation was performed at the wrist, and the boy who had been previously in good health, is now doing well, the wound healing kindly.

*Dr. Post* thought from the duration of the disease, the uniform expansion of the tumour, and the boy's good health, that the tumour was not malignant.

(*Dr. Dalton*, to whom the tumour was referred for microscopic examination, in his report at a subsequent meeting confirmed this opinion.)

*Dr. Finnell* exhibited the bladder of a man aged 60 years, who had died at St. Vincent's Hospital. For 5 years past he had complained of pain in the region of the kidney, and suffered pain on micturition. Five weeks before death, suppression of urine occurred. The catheter could not be introduced. Three days before death, he was admitted to the Hospital. He obtained no relief. Examination *post mortem*. The bladder was sacculated, presenting three divisions. A small fibrous tumour existed over the orifice of the urethra. The pelvis of the left kidney was filled with pus. The cortical portion was disorganized.

*Dr. Baüer* exhibited for Dr. Sayre, the pelvis and femur of a girl, aged 19 years. She was of scrofulous diathesis, and three years before had inflammation of the hip joint, excited by a fall. She was submitted to harsh treatment by an irregular practitioner. At death there was found shortening of five or six inches, but only *apparent* dislocation. Dr. Baüer had never seen a case of spontaneous dislocation.

SEPTEMBER 27, 1854.

*Dr. Post* exhibited a tumour which he had removed from the upper part of the neck of an unmarried female, aged 25 years. The tumour, before its extirpation, seemed to be about three inches in diameter, was hard, and had a slight degree of mobility. It was situated at the angle of the jaw, and close to the mastoid process. It had been growing nearly three years, and had occasioned pain, but not severe or constant. The operation for removal was prolonged by the numerous and firm attachments of the tumour to the angle of the jaw, the os hyoides and especially to the transverse processes of the cervical vertebræ. It was also intimately connected with the deep vessels of the neck, and with the

pneumogastric nerve. The carotid artery and jugular vein were tied below the tumour and divided above; the coats of these vessels were transformed so as to form part of the tumour, not merely passing through it. In consequence of this incorporation of the coats of the vessels with the tissues of the tumour, it was thought best to leave a portion of the tumour as large as a walnut. The remainder was removed. The operation was two hours in progress, during which time the patient was kept under the influence of ether. Towards the close of the operation the pulse flagged a little, but rallied well after its termination. The tumour was not quite so hard as ordinary scirrhous. It was referred to Dr. Dalton for examination.

*Dr. Markoe*, who had witnessed the operation, said that the vessels were evidently a part of the tumour, and could not be separated from it.

*Dr. Sayre* had seen a similar case under the charge of Dr. Meyer, in which the vessels were incorporated with the tumour. The disease returned after the operation, and was unquestionably malignant, involving the adjacent vertebræ.

*Dr. Sayre* presented the sternum, and parts of the 7th and 8th ribs, removed after death from a female patient, who furnished the following history. She had visited Dr. Sayre five months before. At the left of the sternum was a small sore connected with an abscess of the size of a teacup, which crowded the sternum backward. A probe introduced through the sinus, discovered necrosed bone. Eighteen months previously, the patient had fallen heavily on her back, and soon after perceived a swelling about the sternum. Iodine had been applied to promote its absorption. The patient did not comply with the advice given her, and she was lost sight of for several months. Being recently called to her, Dr. Sayre found that the walls of the abscess had sloughed. The 7th and 8th ribs were shown to have been separated from their cartilages at the sternal end, and their free ends being moved at every respiration, kept up great irritation in the ulcerated surface. A portion of the 7th and 8th ribs was removed with a piece of the sternum which was necrosed. The patient at this time complained of tenesmus, with only, however, a mucous diarrhœa. She was relieved by opiate suppositories and tonics. A few days after, acute pain was felt in the abdomen, and in eight hours, death occurred. Examination *post mortem*. No communication existed between the cavity of the abscess and the peritoneal cavity. Throughout the abdomen were old peritoneal adhesions. There were also the products of acute inflammation in the cavity, mingled with fecal matter. Just below the sigmoid flexure of the colon,

was found an ulcerated opening caused by the pressure of a large fibrous tumour of the uterus.

*Dr. Sayre* exhibited the heart of a man to whom he had been called in haste, and who he found had died three minutes after he was sent for. The patient, aged 36 years, had been for three or four years liable to what he considered attacks of asthma. He suffered, especially from these attacks of difficult breathing while *in the city*. He had driven in from the country, some 10 miles, the day before, and had been somewhat excited during the ride. Through that day and the following one he had spoken of occasional pain in his chest, placing his hand over the precordial region. He was obliged to sit up all night from dyspnœia, not being able to sleep. During the day of his death he had kept generally quiet, though he had walked several blocks. While reading at night, a change in his appearance was noticed, and before help could reach him he died. Examination *post mortem*. Percussion was dull over the whole of both lungs. On opening the chest, the lungs were found crowded with blood. No evidence of former inflammation of pleura or lungs existed. The heart was flabby, and its walls thin. The mitral valves were imperfectly closed, but were in no other respects diseased. The other valves were perfect.

*Dr. Sayre* presented a mamma removed for supposed scirrhous tumor from an unmarried female. There was no retraction of the nipple, or cancerous look, or constitutional disturbance. But the almost stony hardness of the tumour led the gentlemen in consultation to pronounce it malignant. On cutting it open after removal, the tumour was found to be a highly distended serous cyst!

*Dr. Finnell* exhibited a portion of the ascending colon taken from a man knocked down in Broadway by a cart wheel, which however did not pass over him. He was stunned, but in a few minutes recovered and walked home. He was soon after taken with pain in the right side, and vomiting, which continued until death, thirty hours after. Examination *post mortem*. The peritoneum was of a scarlet color, but contained little fluid. The colon was ruptured about six inches above the caput coli.

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*Burlington Co. N. J.*—A quarterly meeting of the District Medical Society for the County of Burlington, was held at Mount Holly on Tuesday, October 11, 1854.

In the absence of the President and Vice-President, Dr. Coleman was

called to the chair. The President however, assumed the duties of the chair before the Society adjourned. Dr. Butler was appointed Secretary *pro tem.*

Drs. Price of Tuckerton, and James M. Bean of Juliustown, were unanimously elected members of the Society, and Dr. A. D. Chaloner of Burlington, was proposed for membership.

The following resolution was passed unanimously.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of this Society be instructed to address the Secretaries of the several County Medical Societies of the state, cordially inviting their members to meet this Society as its guests, at its Annual meeting in January next.

Adjourned till two o'clock.

On reassembling, the Society resolved itself into a committee on business for the Annual meeting.

The following subjects were proposed for discussion on that occasion.

1. An inquiry into the origin of Dysentery.

2. Are there any circumstances under which Cholera may be contagious? and

3. What is the most rational treatment of Cholera?

Members present—Drs. Page, (Pres't.) Stratton, Read, Coleman, Budd, Longstreet, Elwell, Reid, Young, Martin, Pugh, E. B. Woolston, and Butler.

Adjourned to meet at Humphrey's Hotel, Mount Holly, on the second Tuesday in January next.

S. W. BUTLER, *Sec. pro tem.*

# BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

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HEALTHY SKIN:—*A Popular Treatise on the Skin and Hair—their preservation and management, by* ERASMUS WILSON, F. R. S. Author of "A Treatise on Diseases of the Skin," "A System of Human Anatomy," &c., &c., &c. Second American, from the fourth and revised London Edition, with illustrations. Blanchard & Lea, Philadelphia, 1854. pp. 290.

The distinguished author of this volume, has presented the profession, not only—but the public, with a valuable book in his "Popular Treatise." Its object is to convince people of the importance of being, and keeping clean, and to teach them how to do so. The matter of cleanliness is urged as a necessity, in the prevention of contagious or infectious disease,—and, the author presents instruction, in a lucid and simple manner, teaching at the same time the anatomy and functions of the skin, and including within the range of his observations, many practical remarks on the phenomenon of animal temperature, and the best methods of sustaining it. Subsidiary to this, the question of diet, clothing, exercise, &c., claims a share of notice. While certain diseases of the skin—warts, and corns—and those disorders affecting the hair and hair tubes, baldness, ring-worms, &c., are disposed of in a familiar style, that is alike attractive and useful. The illustrations are not very numerous, but sufficiently so, to add force to the descriptions. Figure 49 represents a section of a wart, the enlarged papillæ of which rise up like the Andes, one above another, and a frightful, huge picture is made of an insignificant excrescence, so common, and mostly so harmless as the common wart. To those who would avoid the painful sense of a bald head, or crippled feet, we would cheerfully recommend the "Popular Treatise" before us. P.

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THE PRINCIPLES OF ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE PHYSIOLOGY; *a Popular Treatise on the functions, and phenomena of Organic Life, to which is prefixed a general view of the great department of human knowledge.* By J. STEVENSON BUSHNAN, M. D., Physician to the Metropolitan Free Hospital, etc., etc., with one hundred and two illustrations on wood. Philada.: Blanchard & Lea, 1854. pp. 234.

Here is another "Popular Treatise," much more diversified than Wilson's, embracing a variety of departments of human knowledge, with their uses, and connexion with each other. The plan of the book strikes us as entirely novel. In a small compass, an outline is given of

the chief characteristic of life in plants, and animals, with their dependence on the mineral kingdom; thus uniting the organic and inorganic worlds in a mutual relation and dependence, that is alike instructive and agreeable.

The work of the anatomist, in reducing the organs of the body to their various component textures, of the chemist in evolving their ultimate elements, and of the physiologist, in comparing and classifying them, is made serviceable to the author, in the way of narrative and description—while the reader is afforded the opportunity of taking a general view of the field of inquiry, as it is spread before him in the collateral Sciences, and as is shown the great leading principles which ought to guide him to their pursuit. The illustrations, embrace a great variety of figures, from a geometrical diagram, to a quartz and diamond crystal; and then the artist has taken a leap down from a Planetary Orbit, to a view of the Thoracic Duct in Man. Fat vesicles and red corpuscles are then presented, with plans of the circulation in the fœtus, and in mature manhood, till the reader is let down gradually to contemplate the blood apparatus of lobsters, spiders, and the meaner insects, the eyes and ears of owls,—the heads and eyes of bees,—the suckers of flies, and the bill and tongue of the wild duck, &c., &c. In the way of sound-producing apparatus,—there are exhibited the organ-tubes of the camel, horse, opossum, cat, fly, bee, &c. Altogether this little book is most curious and interesting! Who will not desire to read it! P.

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Auscultation and Percussion. By Joseph Skodá. Translated from the fourth edition, by W. O. Markham, M. D., Assistant Physician to St. Mary's Hospital. Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston, 1854.

Skoda's Auscultation and Percussion has excited a good deal of notice, and criticism. Being of the German School, his views are looked upon by some perhaps, with distrust—while by others, who are more or less *saturated* with German theories, because they *are* German, a degree of enthusiasm marks the welcome given to his views. He writes in a suggestive style, and to the thoughtful mind, there is much material that may be used to profit. There is not such minute detail, as might have been expected from Vienna; not so much mysticism, resulting from a rather fashionable style of continuous subdivisions, as might have been allowable in a German Philosopher, and on this account, the work is deserving of credit. There are, however, some seeming inconsistencies, which it is rather difficult for a plain Yankee to comprehend, while the frankness and confidence with which they are presented, entitle the author to a patient hearing, and his views to a careful analysis. The work has the merit of originality, shows the genius of its author, and cannot be without its value; but whether the views presented by Skoda, in opposition to those of the distinguished Laennec, will be confirmed by the brighter light of Science, and the experience of auscultators at this day, is yet to be proved. The subject is one of interest, and the publishers have offered it in good type, and paper, so that it may be easily read.

61 P.

THE PRINCIPAL FORMS OF THE SKELETON, AND OF THE TEETH. By Professor R. OWEN, F. R. S., &c. Author of "Odontography," "Lectures on Comparative Anatomy," "Archetype of the Skeleton," "On the Nature of Limbs," &c., &c. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea, 1854.

We have but little to say of the book before us. It is one of a series of popular works published in London, entitled "Orr's Circle of the Sciences." This treatise, written by an eminent Osteologist, having been deemed sufficiently meritorious to take an independent place in the literature of Science, is presented by the publishers in its present form. As is indicated by the title, it covers a range of inquiry, and research, which is measured only by the limits of comparative anatomy, in its relations to vertebrated animals. The frame-work of the body, in its different forms, and the history and principles of osteological discovery and development, in the composition, classification, growth and adaptation of the skeleton in its several divisions, forms a prominent feature of the work. It abounds in matter interesting especially to the student of Geology and Zoology, and will, no doubt, be properly appreciated.

P.

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A MANUAL OF HUMAN MICROSCOPICAL ANATOMY. By A. KOLLIKER, Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in Wurzburg. Translated by GEORGE BUSH, F. Q. S., and THOMAS HUSDLEY, F. R. S. Edited, with notes and additions, by J. DA COSTA, M. D. Illustrated by three hundred and thirteen Engravings on Wood. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo & Co., 1854.

The study of the elementary structure of the human body, by means of the microscope, being at this day essential alike to the physician, and student, such a work as the one before us, is a desideratum greatly to be valued. The most important disclosures of the microscope belong to the present century, having resulted in defining the tissues, in their ultimate structure and functions, as well as their minute pathology—and within a few years only has the great Cell Doctrine, which is now recognized as the foundation of all our knowledge with reference to organization, and development, been presented by the illustrious Schwann; and while these efforts are being continued and multiplied by our author, Carpenter and others, the early mantle of Malpighi Leeuwenhoek, Aristotle, Galen, Ruysch, Swammerdam and others, that has fallen upon them, may not be removed: but all who have labored to make this instrument subservient to the progress of medicine within the last two centuries should receive their meed of honor and praise, from the friends of Science.

A description of the work is unnecessary. Its title describes it. It is a manual of human microscopical anatomy. The reputation of its author, is a sufficient guarantee of its respectable authority. P.

# EDITORIAL.

## PHYSICIANS OR POLITICIANS?—THE OFFICE OF CORONER.

A physician has recently vacated the gubernatorial chair of the State of New Jersey. Two physicians have just served out their terms as representatives in Congress—another now holds an office in one of the departments at the seat of government, while still another has just returned home from a field of public service, disconnected with his profession. And now in four of the five Congressional Districts of this State, the names of medical men are before the people for their suffrages. Such is the relation the medical men of New Jersey hold in respect to politics. How it is in other States, we have not the means of knowing, except that from a remark in the papers, we learn that in Delaware it has become "quite fashionable" to bring forward the names of physicians for office.

What is the lesson to be learned from this exodus from medicine into politics? Are the ranks of medicine so full, that "young physic" crowding on the heels of old, drives him from his position into the arena of politics for refuge? It cannot be emolument that is sought, for, it seems to us that an established physician would be poorly paid at three, five, or even "eight dollars a day." And as to toil, are not the labors of a conscientious politician quite as onerous as those of the physician? If then it is the *honors* of office that are sought, we ask, what is more honorable than the office of a physician—what more to be desired than the confidence of communities and families, at those seasons when the objects of their affection are stricken down by sickness, and in danger of dissolution?

Circumstances may sometimes make it the duty of the physician to accept the trials and responsibilities of office, when they are thrust upon him, if he can afford to do so, but we protest against his putting himself foward as a scrambler in the donkey race after the empty spoils and honors of office. He cannot come out of the fray without having his garments soiled, if not his sensibilities blunted by the contact. Few men can make good physicians, and good politicians. One or the other they must be, as the duty of either, if properly performed, will tax all

the time and energy of a man; and it is poor policy for a community to elect a good physician, to an office, which he may hold perhaps, only long enough to ruin him as a practitioner of medicine, while it may be, little or nothing is gained by his election.

There is, however, one office in the gift of the people, which we hold should, for obvious reasons, always be filled by a physician. We refer to the office of CORONER. The election of a physician to this office, so far from being a rule, is a very rare exception. The duties of a Coroner are often of such a nature as to require a knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and other branches of medicine, in order that he may form an intelligent opinion of the case before him, and if he is not possessed of these acquirements, he must either *swindle* a physician out of the necessary information, or pay him for it. We believe the former is the course usually adopted. If the physician is paid, (*and he ought in such cases always to demand payment,*) he is paid out of the public purse, and not out of the pocket of the Coroner who has been elected to an office he is incompetent to fill. Thus does the public pay two men for labor that should be performed by one.

## AN INVITATION.

WE are gratified with any movement, the result of which, will tend to increase the intercourse between physicians. As "iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." The more medical men commingle, the more diffused will be the sum of medical knowledge, for the intercourse of intelligent men must be mutually beneficial.

In this view we hail with satisfaction a movement recently set on foot by the District Medical Society for the County of Burlington. By reference to the proceedings of this Society on a preceding page, it will be seen that at its last quarterly meeting, a resolution was unanimously adopted, inviting the members of the various District Medical Societies of the State to meet that society as its guests, at its annual meeting, on the second Tuesday, (9th) of January next. It will be observed that on that occasion the "bill of fare" will include a question as to the origin of Dysentery, and some important inquiries in regard to Asiatic Cholera. It is expected that the guests will use their option in regard to partaking of this portion of the entertainment, as the "largest liberty" will be allowed.

As we understand it, the object of the resolution is to establish a pre-

cedent, which it is hoped will result in the frequent interchange of good feeling, not only between the medical men of this State, but among those of others also. There is no profession whose rights and interests are so much encroached upon, as that of medicine, and the more united its members are in feeling, the bolder will be the front they will present to the army of deceivers by which their path is beset. Anything, therefore, that promises to develop fraternal feeling, meets our hearty approval; only let these social gatherings—whether stated or special—be something more than mere convivial parties: let there be a "feast of reason" as well as a "flow of soul," so that the intellectual man will be a partaker of the benefits of the meetings. For, let it not be forgotten, that all medical society meetings are failures, in which pains are not taken to impart and receive instruction on medical subjects.

We hope to see a full representation of the profession at Mount Holly, in January next.

## ETHNOLOGY.

If the scientific studies of the present day are characterized by any one thing more than another, it is their tendency to investigation into the natural history of man. It is a noble study if pursued in a right spirit, but unfortunately some theorizers are endeavoring to make the discovered facts square to their own pre-conceived notions. A recent publication—Types of Mankind—is a type of this class of investigators. That work, although considered by some as almost beneath serious criticism, is yet calling forth able reviews which will throw much light on this important and interesting subject.

In this number we copy an excellent article on the cranial characteristics and powers of the human race, to which we call the attention of our readers. There are some statements, however, on page 486 in regard to the Indian race, that we cannot subscribe to. If Dr. Hunt takes the New York and Canadian tribes as types of the Indian race, he does injustice to the south-western nations. According to our observation, the latter are a far superior race to the former. The white race *does* amalgamate extensively, readily, almost naturally with them, while they hold the African race in greater abhorrence, as far as amalgamation is concerned, than do the whites. This we can testify to, as we have *seen* it. We wish that ethnologists would study more into the national peculiarities of such tribes as the Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, &c.

PHYSICIAN'S VISITING LIST FOR 1855.

WE have received from the publishers, Lindsay & Blakiston of Philadelphia, a copy of this indispensable pocket companion. We say, *indispensable*, for no one who has once used it, would be willing to do without it for a single day, if a copy could be procured.

To those who have not seen the work we would say, that it contains an Almanac, a table of Poisons and their Antidotes, and blank leaves for a Visiting List, Memoranda, Addresses of Patients, Nurses, &c., Accounts asked for, Memoranda of wants, Obstetric and Vaccination engagements, List of Articles lent, &c. The "Visiting List" is prepared for twenty-five and fifty patients per week: with tuck, or without,—price fifty cents to one dollar. *By all means procure one.*

☞ A copy of Drake's work on the principal Diseases of the interior Valley, second series, has been received from the publishers, Lippincott, Grambo, & Co., Philadelphia, and will be noticed in a subsequent issue.

IN the *Southern Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences* for July, an article is copied from the *Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery*, entitled "*Hysterical Monomania,—Ideal Maladies*," by I. P. Coleman, M. D. The *Western Journal* should have credited the article to the NEW JERSEY MEDICAL REPORTER. In looking over our files of exchanges, we are very often flattered by seeing articles copied from this Journal, but have on several occasions observed an omission to give due credit to the source from whence they come. In one instance we now recall to mind, out of 40 pages of matter in a journal, 23 were taken from the REPORTER. In another out of 30 pages, 11 were taken from this Journal. This is all well, so long as due credit is given us. We are conscious of but one recent omission of the kind, which was in the July number. A table of incompatibles by C. W. Wright, M. D., copied in that number, should have been credited to the *Western Lancet*.

☞ No. 6 of the series of articles on the History of the American Medical Association has just come to hand, and will, with the portrait and biography of Dr. Mussey appear in our December number.

We have also on hand an article from D. W. Maull, M. D., of Delaware, which will appear in our next.

# ECLECTIC AND SUMMARY DEPARTMENT.

*The Cranial Characteristics and Powers of Human Races.*—An Oration read before the Medical Society of the County of Erie at its Semi-Annual meeting, held June 13th, 1854. By S. B. HUNT, M. D.—At a period like the present, when the rapid overspreading of the North American continent has suddenly given rise to a new code of national policy; when the necessities of new events have added the phrase "manifest destiny" to the vocabulary of the statesman; when all politicians have become ethnologists, and talk learnedly of the antipathies and affiliations of races: when an American Secretary of State brings up the diversity of races in a diplomatic discussion, as a sufficient reason for a peculiar line of national action; when we behold prophecies made to-day, and fulfilled to-morrow, of some new conquest for the Anglo Saxon; when a process of emigration, which is rather an Exodus of a whole people, than a colonizing of a part; together with an increased prolificacy, owing to a lengthened average of human life, is spreading a new and exotic race over our continent, displacing from their territories the old inhabitants—when all these concurrent circumstances are thus operating, it is fitting that the physician and the anatomist, should bring forth from their store of acquirement those great anatomical conditions which are the cause of all this turmoil.

It is not necessary for us to discuss the ultimate unity or diversity of the human race. Whatever may have been man's primeval condition, he is *now* divided into races, no less by anatomical differences, than by degrees of intelligence and civilization. And it is my sincere belief that these differences are permanent; that whatever may be the *actual* improvement of any, or all races, their *relative* position must remain the same. Said Dr. Robert Knox; "Human history cannot be a mere chapter of accidents. The fate of nations cannot be always regulated by chance; its literature, science, art, wealth, religion, language, laws, and morals, cannot surely be the result of mere accidental circumstances."

It should not be objected to this that it inculcates the doctrine of inequality of races. The notion of actual equality is Utopian; it does not exist in fact—it is both unscientific, and unscriptural. In looking back upon the workings of that providence which writes the pages of human history, we find one nation always in servitude, another always free—one particular family gradually overspreads the temperate zone; before it perishes all other kindred, tribes, and tongues.

Upon the North American continent we have the representatives of the great Caucasian family, of the aborigines of the soil, the negro, and more recently, a Chinese emigration has sent the Mongol to our Pacific shores.

Let us study a little the relative anatomy of these races. The most marked and essential difference which separates one human type from another, is in the capacity, and shape of the cranium. All other variations seem secondary to this. Among the subdivisions of the great families now dwelling on this continent, we have, first, the Teutonic races, with an average cranial capacity of 92 cubic inches; second, the Celtic, with 87 inches; the Chinese, and the Negro, each, 83; the Barbarous tribes of American Indians, 84; and the Toltecan family, 77 cubic inches. Among the remarkable varieties which this list presents, we find that the German average is 90, the Anglo-American 90, and the English 96 cubic inches. The low measurement of the American as compared with his English progenitors, is owing to the fact that only skulls of men remarkable for crime were included in it by Dr. Morton; from whose tables we obtain these results; while, in all other instances, we have merely a casual selection of all varieties of character. Another fact worthy of notice, is, that the measurement of the negro is greater than that of the Toltecan, and equal to the Mongolian average. Another feature in the negro skull is the fact, that American born negroes have one cubic inch less than the native African families.

It will be seen from this brief statement, that the mere capacity of the skull is not, alone, the true index of ability; while, at the same time, it leaves untouched the great fact, that the Teutonic, the family of largest cranial development, is the most advanced in civilization, and the most vigorous in growth and conquest. The secret of the relative force of nations, where cranial capacity does not fully account for it, must be found in the other condition alluded to, the relative size of the intellectual lobe. Certain varieties exist in the human skull which modify this relation. Thus the Teuton has a forehead, high, broad, full, and nearly vertical, the coronal region is well developed, and the occiput is well rounded but has no excess over the anterior region. Departures from this ideal, will, as they gradually assume the prognathous form, determine the relative intellectuality of races.

Let us trace now the progress of those races which are known to the history of the North American continent.

The monumental history, as well as the traditions of the aborigines of our country, indicate that the Toltecan, or Peruvian, was once the dominant race of this continent. As described by Cortez and his followers, they were a gentle people, of fixed habits, given to assembling in large communities, and the building of great cities. The arts of civilization existed among them to a great extent. A monarchical government, a priestly hierarchy, and a provident agriculture indicated a condition far above barbarism. Their average cranial capacity, as ascertained by Morton, from the measurement of 213 skulls, was 77 cubic inches. Its conformation presented a low receding forehead, the longitudinal and

parietal diameter nearly equal, a flattened occiput, high cheek bones, and heavy and projecting jaws. This race once held possession from the great lakes to the isthmus of Darien. It was they who constructed the forts and mounds which dot our western prairies. But long before the peopling of North America by the whites, they had disappeared from the whole country north of the Rio Grande; and their place was occupied by a race superior to them in cranial development, but inferior in the arts. The Barbarous tribes had some 7 cubic inches of brain the advantage over the Toltecans. The cranial conformation was similar, with the exception of a fuller occiput, and smaller intellectual lobe. These anatomical characters formed an analogue in their minds. Crafty, subtle, vindictive, nomadic, despising manual labor, and incapable of civilization, they were still permitted, in the Providence of God, to drive before them the mild Toltecan, and give to rapine and blood the land which once waved with corn. It was the manifest destiny of the Toltecan race to perish from the earth. Their civilization, their knowledge of fortification and defence, were no match for the larger brain of the red man. The men of largest brain, of strongest will, fiercest animal passions, and smallest share of human sympathies, passed from their north-eastern origin, and swept all obstacles from their path. It was a work of annihilation, and nothing was left of the Toltecan but his forts and mounds.

The second act in this great drama opens the most important and immense migration of the human race on record. There came to the shores of New England and Virginia some feeble bands of men, who, whether rightfully or not, were soon engaged in bloody wars with the numerous tribes around them. Looking at the probabilities as they then existed, the chances were a thousand to one that, a broil once commenced between the white and the red man, the former would soon be driven from the shores of the continent, or find a grave beneath its forests. They had to contend with a race numerous, powerful, vindictive, armed with efficient weapons, and the bravery to use them. Why is it, then, that we have seen the Teuton gradually enlarging his borders, and the red man as steadily perishing before him? The work is like that which the Indian had previously inflicted on the Toltecan. It was not conquest or subjection, but annihilation. Rank by rank, and tribe by tribe, the red man faded from his possession. Like some Sarsar wind of death the races of the Teuton have passed from the portals of the East, until now the golden shores of the Pacific acknowledge their dominion. It mattered little what means were chosen to accomplish this result. The peaceful policy of Willian Penn, and the stern unyielding integrity of the Puritans, were as fatal to the Indian as the fierce slaughter of the Spaniards in the halls of Montezuma. And the high necessities of civilization were but a secondary element in this contest. On the whole line of advance, from the Bay of Massachusetts to the Gulf of Mexico, the progress of the white race was preceded, and pioneered, by a class of adventurers who fled from the life of towns, and assimilated themselves to barbarism. It was not for civilization that the Daniel Boones

of our country fought and struggled. They contended with the Indian for his hunting grounds, and not for sites of cities. It was the physiological antipathy of race for race, not sufficiently proximate, and too proud and stubborn to blend.

And here we may pause to notice another marked difference in the conquering races. The Teuton, with an average cranial capacity of 92 inches—or if we take the pure English standard of the Puritans, of 96 inches, making a capacity of 12 cubic inches, above that of the red man, fought less, and conquered more than did the Spaniards and French at the south, with an average of 84, and 87 cubic inches; thus nearly assimilating them to the Barbarous, but not reducing them to the Toltecan measurement. As a natural consequence we find that the Teuton has never widely amalgamated with the Indian. The animal passions were too feeble, and the innate pride of birth and connection too high, for such an intermingling. But the converse held true with the Spaniard and Frenchman. The Iberian and Celt belong to the swarthy families of the Carcasian race, and are as distinctly separable from the Anglo Saxon, as from the negro. Possessing, as a race, five cubic inches less of brain than the Teuton, they more nearly approximate the aborigines than the men of the north. They have every where first fought and conquered, and then amalgamated with the Indian. The consequence is a feeble and hybrid race; defining hybridity as a loss of permanence of national type. The physical degeneration which has resulted from this blending, is a very noteworthy feature in anatomical science. The races now inhabiting Mexico, are a breed, so disgracefully mixed and intermingled, that the types of the heroic Indian, as well as the dignified Spaniard, have alike disappeared. The average size of the head in Mexico is so small, that it is with the greatest difficulty, that an American, of average cranial size, can find a native hat sufficiently large.

Still another race comes in to mingle in the confusion of American population. We are indebted to our English forefathers for the presence among us of more than three millions of a low type of human organization—the negro. Prognathous jaws, narrow elongated forms, receding foreheads, large posterior development, and an internal capacity of only 83 inches, characterize the cranium of the African negro. The cranial capacity is nine inches less than that of the Teuton, but still exceeding the Toltecan by six inches, and only one less than the Barbarous Indian. There is, therefore, nothing in the mere size of the negro skull which especially marks him for servitude, or renders impossible a certain degree of civilization. Although he has never, in his native state, attained to any degree of culture, he is endowed with a wonderful imitative faculty, which enables him to adapt himself to the customs of civilized life. But we find that he more readily amalgamates with the Indian, than with the white. The red man, though he sometimes makes a slave of his black fellows, is still more generally disposed to admit him to a footing of equality. In his relations with the whites, he has now for two centuries remained in servitude, without an effort, on his part, to escape from bondage. The casual flight of a few solitary individuals does not

invalidate the fact that he is enchained by a people which could not thus enslave the Indian. The story of Uncle Tom's Cabin contains a most truthful moral on this point, however unconsciously on the part of the author. "George," the almost white-slave, strikes for freedom with a bold hand; preferring death to slavery. So, too, did "Cassy," and every other light mulatto in the book. But we find that Mrs. Stowe has always portrayed the pure black as a willing bondsman, and "Uncle Tom," himself, as a model of submission to the lash, and to bitterest wrong and outrage. This was not mere Christian non-resistance. The meekest martyr, from St. Stephen to John Rogers, would have resisted such wrong, by force of arms. It is an inborn characteristic of the black race.

While I would not sanction the idea that the mere fact of inferiority, or diversity of race, can justify the holding of a fellow man (for a fellow man he is,) in involuntary servitude, I still think, that the anatomical facts of difference should have some influence in modifying our sentiments, and render us slow in imposing the responsibility of self-support upon a race, whose ability to maintain themselves, in competition with the white man, is at least as much a problem, as is that of the coexistence of the Anglo-Saxon, and the Indian. It is impossible for 83 cubic inches of cerebral matter, fed by negro blood, to compete with 92 of educated, Teutonic brain. It is not the province of the anatomist to decide what should be done; but it is safe to assume, that any being, however degraded, if he possesses reason and conscience, should also possess the liberty to use them for his own welfare. The limit of authority over a degraded race should not extend beyond an exercise of paternal care and superior wisdom, in guiding, protecting, and elevating it, in such a manner of life as is best fitted to its capacities.

The amalgamation of the two races produces the mulatto, who manifests a certain degree of hybridity. He is a superior negro, but a very inferior white man. As we go on approximating to the white, we have increasing aptitude to learn, and greater intelligence; but this is accompanied by a corresponding degradation of the white. The mulatto is an unnatural and a sinful existence. Feeble in constitution, unable to perform severe labor, he manifests a tendency to scrofulous disease, and early death. Though the pure negro is naturally long lived, we find the mulatto rarely attaining the verge of old age. It is a notorious fact, that, were it not for constant importations from the south, the race of negroes would soon disappear from the northern states, from amalgamation, and consequent short life. If amalgamation is thus fatal to the existence of the negro, what better would be his condition if left to his own resources. It is but just that we should look the anatomical argument fairly in the face. The condition of the negro has ever been that of servitude—a consequence of his lack of brains. It cannot be pretended that this should form a justification of American Slavery; but the anatomist will still shrink from hastily disturbing the present order of things. An immediate setting free of the bondsmen of the south, would place three and a half millions of an inferior race in competition with one far superior to it in anatomical perfection. Who can doubt where

misery would fall? The experiment has already been twice tried on this continent. The Toltecan and the Indian have in turn faded, and passed away from the broad lands they once claimed as their own. Without a claim to the soil, without a vestige of national organization, and in competition with a vastly superior race, that annihilation which has so surely dogged the retreating footsteps of the Indian, would find but a feeble resistance from the humble, crouching African.

One circumstance may, in this contingency, operate in favor of the negro. Had the Indian been capable of subjection to slavery, he would still be found among us. The negro would soon, in freedom, adapt himself somewhat to his new condition; and, although a large class might, like the wretched inhabitants of the British West Indies, prefer abject poverty to labor, yet the influence of a colder climate, and the necessity of providing for a winter, might gradually engraft industrious habits. Even the ever working bee, when transported to Jamaica, laid up his store of honey for a single season only. Ever after that, he forgot his provident northern notions, and led a roisterous and dissipated life among the sweets of the sugar houses, unmindful of the morrow.

It is now a received opinion with ethnologists, that the large headed Teuton is the dominant race of all the earth. Wherever climate will permit his existence, his passion for discovery leads him. The negro, the Hindostanee, the Malay, the aboriginees of America, have all fallen before him; and now he knocks at the door of the Japanese Mongol, and demands admission there. One by one the lesser tribes have owned his sway. The lively Celt of Ireland has yielded his long fought battle with the English Teuton; the high spirited Hungarian, and the wily Italian, feel the yoke of the Austrian Teuton; and still another family of this great group is pressing down upon the Turk. The stream of emigration has filled the United States with unceasing additions of Teutonic blood. Before them has fled the Indian, and beneath their iron rule is bowed the unfortunate African.

Who can tell where, or when, this conquering advance shall cease? What shall be the fate of feebler nations beneath its sway?

In these great facts, this hastily gathered evidence of "manifest destiny," we read a lesson which politicians well might learn. The doctrine that "all men are created free and equal," is an anatomical, physiological, and Scriptural impossibility. So long as one star differeth from another star in glory, so long as the infinite gradations from dust to Deity, rank one above another, so long as man is but a little *lower* than the angels, while God is over all, so long shall the difference which He has implanted in the human race, remain, unchanged in type, though progressive in excellence, until the last act of the drama shall open upon a single dominant race, in a world whence all others shall have disappeared.—*Buffalo Journal.*

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*Mortality among Children.* By W. A. ALCOTT, M. D.—The Boston Journal for August 10 has an article, copied from the Baltimore Patriot, on the mortality of children, which is deserving of the attention of those

whose office should be not only curative but preventive. I copy from the article as follows:—

"In the cities of New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, last week, out of a total of 1,724 deaths, 1,025—within a fraction of two-thirds of the whole number—were children under five years of age."

Now as there is no date to the article of which the foregoing is a part, it is not in my power to say precisely *what week* the writer refers to; but it is a fair inference that it was recent. Nor am I able to say by what arithmetic or logic, 1,025 is made out to be "within a fraction of two-thirds" of 1,724. It would be more nearly three-fifths of the whole. Still the fact is a terrible one. Many have thought the statement so often made by myself and others, that two-fifths of our population, *taking the year together*, die under five years, an exaggerated one; but here is a mortality of three-fifths for a particular period.

The writer in the Baltimore Patriot, in his comment on the dreadful fact, justly observes;—"There is certainly some cause for this, and it is due to the science as well as the philanthropy of the age, that this cause should be distinctly ascertained and pointed out." Again he says:—"A close examination of the subject, we doubt not, would show that it is chiefly among those who are surrounded with all the comforts, and, in many instances, with the luxuries which riches command, that infantile diseases find their most numerous and unresisting victims."

With one qualification, Messrs. Editors, I can subscribe most fully, to the truth which is suggested in the latter quotation. Instead of saying "riches" in a country where almost every pauper is rich enough to have his appetite tickled and gratified, I would say "money and a short-sighted selfishness."

In regard to the causes of this fearful and fearfully increasing infantile mortality—for there are doubtless more causes than one—I have something to say, suggested by the study of the subject for thirty years or more. And though I lay no claim to infallibility, I do greatly desire to be heard.

My first suspicion rests on the too free use of alkalies among us. I say "the too free use," because, although I should not be likely to encourage their dietetic use, in any quantity, or in any circumstances of *health*, yet there is certainly a wide difference between excess and moderation. It is one thing to use just so much saleratus as shall be neutralized by the acetic acid it meets with, so as to leave no residuum but a little acetate of potash, and quite another to use the alkali so freely that a portion of it remains in the stomach and intestines unneutralized. Yet the latter is an every day occurrence. Our children, generally, have their first passages in a state of sub-inflammation, from this and other kindred causes; and though the use of mild acids, especially those of fruits, may do something to soften or mitigate the condition, is it any wonder that bowel complaints, in these circumstances, become very severe and unmanageable? Is it any wonder that two-fifths, and in summer three-fifths of all who are born, die under five years of age?

I have no doubt that quackery and humbuggery, as well as many more

things, tend to a fatal result in these cases; but I can say no more in a single number. You may possibly hear from me again.

AUBURN DALE, *August* 15, 1854.

*Mortality among Children, No.* 2.—When I call to mind that the character of your work varies somewhat from that of its predecessor—whose motto was "The best part of the medical art is that of avoiding pain," I begin to doubt whether you have room for short articles from time to time on prevention. And yet, medical men in general are not so lost to philanthropy, and even to common humanity, as not to look a little at prevention now and then. They know something of the pain I have often experienced on reflecting that while I have been the means, apparently, of extending the lives of some of my consumptive patients from one to thirty years, it has had one terrible effect which philanthropy herself scowls at—it has served to propagate and perpetuate a feeble race. Still, cure we *must have*, and *will* have; and postponement, and palliation. It wont do to let the feeble die off if we can help it.

The subject I broached in a late number of the Journal on infantile mortality is one of serious and alarming import. The paper from which I quoted was probably correct, for during the week ending about the middle of August, the New York Independent states the whole number of deaths in the three cities I have mentioned, at 1,790; while that of those under 5 years of age was 936, considerably more than half, still. Such a mortality is indeed frightful. What are we to think of the habits of people when half the children in families die under 5 years of age? What would be thought of the good sense and right treatment of domestic animals where half the lambs, pigs and chickens should die thus prematurely?

I spoke of the use of salæratus as in the front of a long list of transgressions. I ought to have particularized. Dr. Hammond, of Killingly, Ct., first called my attention to this subject, ten or twelve years ago. He confessed to the use of ten pounds in his small family in a year, and said he was very far from being alone. Soon after that, I went down East, and learned something of the state of things in New Brunswick and Maine. I found that in Bangor ten or twelve pounds a year were very common. So I found it afterwards in some portions of Massachusetts and Connecticut. Col. Ivers Phillips, of Fitchburg, five or six years ago, told me that in a family of ten persons they used twenty-five pounds a year; and Mrs. P., who was present, endorsed the assertion. The smallest quantity I have known used in any ordinary family, except my own, is about five pounds. In Ohio, families who were at first disposed to sneer at my statements, confessed to the use of six or eight pounds yearly.

My deliberate conviction is, that the families of twenty millions of people in our United States population—amounting to about four millions—use the average quantity of five pounds of this alkali yearly—or one pound to each individual. This is an aggregate of twenty millions of pounds. How much of this goes into the alimentary canal and

courses its devious way without meeting with any free acid or other substance calling into play new affinities, cannot easily be told. In these days of excess in its use, I fear one half. But to be safe, I will place it at one fourth. Is it so, then, that the lining membranes of our people—our children among them—must be irritated yearly by 5,000,000 pounds of uncombined—unneutralized salæratus? The very thought is enough to make one shudder!

From ten to twenty grains of this substance is sometimes put down in our medical dictionaries as a dose. Place it at thirty. Do we swallow 960,000,000 doses of medicine a year, in this careless, uncalled-for manner? What effect can medicine be likely to have, when given in an emergency, to children who have been irritated day after day, and year after year, in this way? I have said irritated—not poisoned. Yet Orfila, I find, calls salæratus an irritating poison, and gives us a long list of its terrible symptoms. I need not detail them in a Journal designed for the profession; but they ought to be hung up in letters so large that they could be read at any distance all over the country. They would make some of our house-keepers stare—and it ought to be so.

Let us make one more estimate. I have not facts to bear me out in what I am going to do, because I have not the patience to gather them up—scattered as they are up and down the earth's surface. But I suppose four maximum medical doses of this article, taken at once, would be called excess; and this excess would be evinced by some or all of Orfila's "symptoms." In short, the individual who should take such a dose would be poisoned. I do not say he would certainly die, for I am not warranted in this. But I do say that, in all probability, he would not greatly desire to take another such dose immediately. But 5,000,000 pounds of this alkali—the quantity we supposed to be swallowed yearly unneutralized—would at this rate be 240,000,000 doses of the poison. It would poison all our 20,000,000 of white people in the Union, twelve times each, or once a month, for the whole year. But enough for the present.

AUBURN DALE, *August* 25, 1854.

*Mortality among Children No.* 3.—One fruitful source of infantile mortality is medicine. Let not my medical friends accuse me of heterodoxy, in making this statement. I have reasons for my belief.

When I speak of medicine as a cause of infantile mortality, I have no reference—not the remotest—to that small amount of it which is given at the prescription of the family physician. There may have been error here; there certainly *has* been, in all time and countries, *unless it is our own*. But I waive all this. Nor do I refer in particular to the enormous quantity of drugs and medicines taken without the prescription of any person duly qualified for the purpose, beyond the pale of the family—a hundred times greater than the quantity given by all our regular physicians of every school.

But I would aim, chiefly in these paragraphs, at what I have been accustomed to call maternal dosing and drugging. Bad as the world is,

in other departments of drugging, this is more prolific of infantile disease and premature death than all else, except bad cookery; of which, by the way, I have said something in a former number.

Mothers assume to understand the constitution of their own children; and almost deem it an insult to be told of their mistake. Yet they are mistaken. Reasoning *a priori*, it is impossible, or at least next to impossible, for those who are situated as mothers generally are, to understand enough of the laws of hereditary descent, temperament, &c., to be able to understand what is almost impossible to the wisest physiologists and physicians. And then, as regards the plain matter of fact, their mistake is still more obvious. They almost every day, for example, treat their scrofulous children—amounting to one third or one fourth of the whole—in a manner diametrically opposite to what they would have done had they understood the nature of the case and how the first symptoms of latent scrofula manifest themselves.

And yet it is almost as much as one's reputation is worth, whether in the profession or out of it, to run the risk of giving to our mothers this little piece of information. And the hazard is great in exact proportion to their ignorance. An ignorant mother is, next to the Pope of Rome, the most infallible of all human beings! I mean, of course, in her own estimation. You may reason, sometimes, with an intelligent mother—seldom with an ignorant one.

But whether ignorant or somewhat enlightened, the vast majority of our mothers doctor, more or less, their own children. At least, if they refuse to call it *doctoring*, they give them a vast amount of small elixirs, cordials, &c. The closets of not a few house-keepers are a complete apothecary's shop. They may, it is true, have smaller parcels than the regular apothecary; but they have almost as great an assortment. And they not only keep it; they administer it. They may not intend it; they *do* not *mean* to give *much*; sometimes they really *think* they *do not* give much. But it comes to pass, in the course of the year, that much is given by somebody; and I greatly fear that the mother must be held responsible for it.

True it is, that no mother confesses to this crime of dosing and drugging. As it used to be with tight lacing of the chest, that no one was guilty herself, but almost everybody else was, so in this matter of drugging and dosing children. Yet how often have I seen these very mothers with their bottles or phials on the steamboats and railroads of our country—hardly willing to wait for the arrival of the cars at a "station," before they administered the needful elixir, but actually administering it on the road!

But now for the consequences of this maternal dosing; for this it is with which medical men have chiefly to do. Next to bad food and wretched cookery, as I have before intimated, this error is productive of more sickness and premature death than any other. No physician knows what to do with a sick child, who has been thus tampered with. He may indeed *guess a little better* than others; but even *he* will often *guess wrong*. Their first passages are irritated, and perhaps inflamed;

and if it were possible to make the right appliances either internally or externally, it would still puzzle the wisest head to know how to apportion the quantity so as to be more likely to do good than harm. Diseases, in these circumstances, as you know, are more apt to be severe and complicated, and the termination more likely to be fatal, especially if much medicine is used.

The worst remains to be told. As it is not always easy to trace the cause of severe, protracted or fatal infantile disease to maternal error, we not only contrive to kill, from generation to generation, by thousands and tens of thousands; but we partly kill by millions. If all the mischief that is done could be concentrated, as it were, in a few, and were to kill them outright, so that everybody might see that they fairly died of violence, there might be hope. But no; we seem to be left to grope on in ignorance, and not only to kill, continually, but to *partly* kill many more. We bring on, gradually, some disease or other; or we render an inherited disease, which might have been mild, very severe, or early fatal; or we aggravate, by over dosing, the symptoms of acquired diseases from other causes. We clip from the existence of one child or person, a year; from another, two or three years; from all, or almost all, something. The aggregate of these clippings, so to call them, every year, though it cannot be exactly ascertained, is, no doubt, fearfully great, and fearfully increasing.

I have sometimes thought maternal dosing was a little more mischievous in the families that confide in homœopathic and botanic treatment, than in those who adhere to the old system. I will tell you why. They seem to think vegetable medicine, and even small doses of mineral medicine, so harmless that they may dabble with them when and where they please—almost without reserve or limitation. Perhaps this is not justly chargeable on the systems themselves, but only an incidental evil. But this does not alter matters of plain fact; and if the public are killing their children with too many small shot, as well as with musket and canon balls, it should be known, that the evil may be guarded against, or, if possible, removed.—*Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.*

AUBURN DALE, *Sept.* 9. 1854.

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*Solidified Milk.**—A few days since we had the honor of an invitation to accompany a committee of medical gentlemen appointed by the New York Academy of Medicine, to visit the establishment where the above mentioned article is prepared. After an agreeable railroad trip of 80 miles or thereabouts, in the Haarlem cars, with Dr. Griscom, Chairman of the Committee, Drs. Isaac Wood, Blakeman, Shanks, White, and Dr. C. T. Harris, Chemist, who for several years has been associated with Mr. Blatchford in perfecting the preparation, we reached Amenia, some 20 or thirty miles east of Poughkeepsie, Duchess Co.—Here we were joined by the venerable Dr. Blatchford of Troy, whose

* We presume the attention of Dr. N. S. Davis, Chairman of a Committee of the Am. Med. Assoc. on the *Nutritive qualities of Milk*, &c., will be called to the establishment described in this article, and an interesting report will be looked for from him at the meeting of the Association in Philadelphia, in May next.—ED. N. J. MED. REP.

son is proprietor of the establishment. Conveyances were in readiness to carry us a few miles nearer the Hudson, over rolling hills which afforded a fine opportunity for judging of the pasture ground, as well as ventilating our lungs of city air. No member of the Committee ventured suggestions of slop milk.

While some of the party spent the night with the proprietor, others of us enjoyed the politely offered hospitality of Dr. Smith, who regaled us with a scientific treat in the shape of the most beautiful and neatly classified private collection of minerals we have ever chanced to see.

By day-break the Chairman of the Committee was aroused, (the penalty of office,) to be present at the milking, that he might testify as to the purity of the source of the milk, and the appearance of the cattle.

After our morning repast, we were invited to witness the process of *solidification*.

To 112 lbs. of milk, 28 lbs. of Stuart's white sugar were added, and a trivial proportion of bi-carbonate of soda, a teaspoonful, merely enough to ensure the neutralizing of any acidity, which in the summer season is exhibited even a few minutes after milking, although inappreciable to the organs of taste. The sweet milk was poured into evaporating pans of enameled iron, embedded in warm water heated by steam. A thermometer was immersed in each of these water baths; that, by frequent inspection, the temperature might not rise above the point which years of experience have shown advisable.

To facilitate the evaporation,—by means of blowers and other ingenious apparatus,—a current of air is established between the covers of the pans and the solidifying milk. Connected with the steam engine is an arrangement of stirrers, for agitating the milk slightly whilst evaporating, and so gently as not to *churn* it. In about three hours the milk and sugar assumed a pasty consistency, and delighted the palates of all present; by constant manipulation and warming, it was reduced to a rich, creamy looking powder, then exposed to the air to cool, weighed into parcels of a pound each, and by a press, with the force of a ton or two, made to assume the compact form of a tablet (the size of a small brick), in which shape, covered with tin foil, it is presented to the public.

Incidentally, we had an opportunity of judging of the cleanliness of the establishment; for while in some of the pans the process of evaporation was being completed, others were being washed for a second charge. (One of the Committee hinted, that the refuse washings were no bad approach to much of our city milk.) Great precaution was used lest any of the first evaporation should be subjected to a second heating, as the last batch might thereby be spoiled.

During the day the Committee made an excursion through the thousand acres of pasture land, connected with the establishment, and visited some of the commanding points of view from whence might be seen in a glance, the hills of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and the cloud-crested Kaatskills of New York. This panorama of distant hill tops, of green grass, and blue sky, will not fade from remembrance. To vary the en-

tertainment, attempts were made to secure a few frogs, for exhibiting the *circulation of the blood*, making *frog batteries*, etc., but with limited success—the weather being cool, only two were netted and bagged. The old mountains echoed and re-echoed many a hearty peal of laughter at the anecdotes of medical experience, which might prove a valuable addition to the "Diary of a Physician."

After a sumptuous dinner, we had the honor of being requested to read to the Committee a monograph on the chemical constitution of milk, with an exact account of each of the important ingredients involved in the process of solidifying and preserving this article, written by Mr. Dalson, the chemist to whose talent we are indebted for this invaluable preparation.

After a vote of thanks on the part of the guests to their host and hostess, and an expression of gratification on the part of the proprietor to the Committee for their interest and apparent satisfaction, we resolved ourselves into a committee of cooks, dairymaids, experimenters, tasters, &c.

Some of the solidified milk which had been grated and dissolved in water the evening previous, was found covered with a rich cream, this, skimmed off, was soon converted into excellent butter. Another solution was speedily converted into wine whey, by a treatment precisely similar to that employed in using ordinary milk. It fully equalled the expectations of all; so that solidified milk will hereafter rank among the necessary appendages of the sick room. In fine, this article makes paps, custards, puddings, and cakes equal to the best milk, and one may be sure it is an unadulterated article, obtained from well-pastured cattle, and not the produce of distillery slops—neither can it be *watered*.

For our steam-ships, our packets, for those travelling by land or by sea, for hotel purposes or use in private families, for young or old, we recommend it cordially as a substitue for fresh milk.

We look with interest for the scientific report of the committee of the Academy of Medicine, in which we hope for an exposition of the domestic, culinary, and hygienic properties of solidified milk.—*Editorial in American Medical Monthly.*

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*The Alleged Connection between the phases of the Moon and the quantity of Rain.* By JOSEPH JOHNSON, M. D., Charleston, S. C.—I believe the opinion to be very prevalent, that the two great changes of the moon are the periods most frequently attended by falls of rain. Having, for many years, kept a diary of the weather, for the Medical Society of South Carolina, I have some reason to doubt the correctness of this opinion. Having that diary on the table before me, I made an abstract from it during the last twelve years, for the purpose of verifying that opinion, or of confirming my doubts. The following table of the weather, at each full and new moon, shows how many of the three days at each of these great changes, were attended by falls of rain, and how many were without rain. I submit it to the inspection of your readers, if you think it worthy of publication, premising that in some parts of the diary is noted the occurrence of a shower, but where the fall of wa-

ter in such a shower was less than the quarter of one-tenth of a quarter of an inch, I took no note of it either in the diary or in the abstract. The result is 618 clear days to 289 days of rain, in the twelve years, and a proportionate result in each separate year. The book from which these results have been drawn, is open to the inspection and scrutiny of any gentleman who may wish to examine it for this and other matters.

[ The Tables are omitted.—ED. N. J. MED. REP. ]

My own opinion is, that the influence of the moon has been greatly over-rated, not only as to the changes in the weather by which, incidentally, the health of human beings might be affected; but, also, as to its supposed direct influence on some of the mental and bodily diseases of mankind, such as mania, menstruation, epilepsy, &c. Even where some of them appear to return at lunar periods, it is not generally the case; and as to conception and parturition, it is unquestionable that the birth occurs much more generally after nine calendar months than nine lunar months. In epilepsy the attacks are at first after long intervals of time, and, of course, not at lunar periods; then gradually reduced in the length of intervals, until so frequent that the paroxysms cannot be attributed to the influence of the moon. In menstruation, although it may occur with many at lunar periods, yet it unquestionably recurs at all ages and phases of the moon in different females; and when suspended by pregnancy and nursing, it recurs frequently at different periods of the moon from those of its previous appearance in the same persons. As these affections are periodical in their recurrence, they are associated in the human mind with the periodical changes of the moon, and, without investigation, finally ascribed to its influence.

To doubt the influence of the moon on the ebbing and flowing of the tides, will, doubtless, be called heresy, blindness or madness. With your leave, however, I will point out some errors in the books, from which we and our children are taught the theory of the tides. The uniform recurrence of spring tides at the new and full moons, would appear to settle this question. But at the new moon, when it is in conjunction with the sun, the tides rise no higher than at full moon, when in opposition to the sun. The theorists assert that the tides are several feet higher at new moon than at the full, because of their united attraction: but I appeal to Dr. Bowditch, and believe that no higher authority can be adduced, that along the whole eastern coast of America the tides are not higher at the new than at full moon.

Again. They assert the highest spring tides occur in the winter; because the sun at that time is nearer to the earth than at any other season of the year. But everybody knows that the tides are then comparatively the least, and the highest occur in the spring and fall, when the oceans are surcharged by the melting of snow and ice in both the Polar regions.

Again. They assert that as the influence of the sun and moon is greatest in the torrid zone, the tides rise higher there than in the temperate zones. But all navigators and all practical observers agree that

there the tides only rise from one to three feet, while in the temperate latitudes of Nova Scotia and Great Britain they rise the highest—even as high as thirty or forty feet.

Keith—in Theorem 2d, p. 81, London, 1815—states that when the moon is in the horizon, the tide will be ebb or low water; we all know that the reverse of this is true everywhere on the eastern coast of the United States. In Theorem 3d, he says that the time of high water is a little after the time of the moon's coming to the meridian; we all know that it is then low water. Every almanac will prove the reverse of these two Theorems, and yet they are taught in the American schools as truths. This doctrine of the 3d Theorem is likewise advanced by Sir Isaac Newton in his *Principia*. It is certainly true as to the tides in London, but is not true as to the greater part of the kingdom. The following is extracted from some of the best English books on navigation:

| | H. | M. |
|---|---|---|
| High water at full and new moon at Lands' End, | 4 | 30 |
| " Lizard, | 5 | |
| " Portland, | 7 | |
| " Ramsgate, | 11 | |
| " Portsmouth, | 11 | 36 |
| " Margate, | 11 | 45 |
| " Thames' mouth, | 12 | |
| " London, | 2 | 46 |

This shows, conclusively, that the tides progress from the Atlantic Ocean up the British Channel to the mouth of the Thames, and then westwardly up to London; and that the period of high water in London ought not to be taught as the time of high water everywhere.

Again. As the new moon is in conjunction with the sun, a great influence is ascribed to their united power of attraction. When they rise together in the east, we find the tide already high on the eastern shores of America. The theorists say that this is caused by their attraction; but I appeal to common sense to say, if the tides precede the rise of the sun and moon, whether they are not rather impelled forward before the sun and moon; and whether, if the tides were attracted by them, they would not have followed, and not preceded, their rise in the east.

But what are the changes of the moon, that such vast effects should be ascribed to them?—the control of mind and matter—the ebbing and flowing of the tides in all parts of the world, and the changes of weather at all seasons of the year. Are these changes of the moon any thing more than the greater or less quantity of the sun's light reflected from the moon, at the full and new moon, and at the intermediate quarters? If there be no other material difference, the theorists appear to base their doctrine on mere moonshine.—*Charleston Medical Journal.*

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*Modification of the Vectis.* By AUG. K. GARDNER, M. D., Member of the Committee on Obstetrics, &c., New York Academy of Medicine; Lecturer on Obstetrics, New York Preparatory School of Medicine. &c., &c.—The vectis, lever, or tractor, for the names are used synonymous-

ly, is an instrument of former times, now fallen into general disuse. It was the antecedent of the forceps, to which it has yielded the field, and is now mentioned only by the lecturer, and in order to caution the young and inexperienced against its use. The reasons urged against its employment to assist nature in parturition, are undoubtedly just. It is correctly stated, that in one of the uses to which it may be put, it is efficient; in the other, either equally powerless or highly injurious. As a tractor, the finger of the opposing hand forming the second blade of a forceps, it is powerless; as a lever, with the hand of the operator for a fulcrum, it is equally powerless; and if the pubis, the os ischii, or the soft parts, be suffered to form the *point d'appui*, the woman must afterward inevitably suffer from inflammation and its accompanying ills.

How is it, then, that in older writers we find the instrument so highly commended? Dewees in particular praises it, lauds its benefits, and sneers at its opposers. We are inclined to think that either the benefits derived were not so great as supposed, or that the after results were disregarded.

The great difficulty in using the lever is the want of a fulcrum. It was that only that Archimedes is reported to have needed to move the world. Now, as no part of the mother should for a moment be thought of for a fulcrum, and as the left hand of the operator, applied near the neck of the instrument—on account of its want of stability, and the awkwardness, if not impossibility of thus manipulating—as a fulcrum is inefficient, we must seek for some other fulcrum. It has occurred to me, that by lengthening the handle of the lever, we may make the extremity of the handle rest upon the elbow of the operator—the hand grasping the centre of the instrument—and from the elbow obtaining the purchase, constituting it, in philosophical terms, a lever of the third kind. In this manner no possible injury could happen to the mother; the force being applied at the centre of the instrument, counteracted by the elbow (the fulcrum,) and exerted solely upon the presenting portion of the child.

In accordance with this idea, an instrument is in process of manufacture for me, by Mons. Luer, now in Paris. Both ends are to be terminated with a fenestra, which, while in reality being a double instrument with different curvatures, will by receiving the olecranon, steady the instrument on its application. For convenience in carrying, the instrument will close with a hinge, fastened when in use, by a sliding bolt.

With this lever I anticipate in some few cases, that the position of the head may be changed; in face presentations, by its use the occiput may be substituted for the face, &c. In presentations of the breech, as a tractor, some service may be rendered where the delivery is delayed from want of power, or by any impediment, and to assist in the subsequent delivery of the head, frequently so difficult and fatal to the child. I do not presume that by this or any modification, the lever can ever successfully compete with the forceps; but in some cases it may perhaps be substituted for a more formidable looking instrument, requiring

double the trouble in its application, and more frequently the exposure of the patient.

It will appear obvious, that when the instrument is to be applied under the pubis, little is gained by this modification, unless the patient be turned very much to one side; but I do not pretend to make it a perfect instrument. In the great majority of cases, it is but a half instrument; still, even in these cases the instrument is not inferior to the ordinary form, which is found in every obstetric case. So long as it is deemed worthy of this place, it is worth our while to render it as efficient as possible.—*N. Y. Med. Times.*

New York, 141 East Thirteenth st., *August*, 1854.

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*Protracted Pregnancy.*—Dr. Edward Smith mentions a case in which it appeared clear to him that the woman was delivered in ten months after conception took place. He also mentioned a case in which a child cried so loudly, three minutes after the head was born, and before the body was extruded, that it could be heard in the adjoining room. This case showed that when a pelvis was large, and the pains not severe, there might be sufficient room for the undelivered chest of the child to expand. Had there been a question in this case as to whether the child was born alive, it could have been shown that it had breathed. Dr. Smith also related a case in which an infant, two days after birth, had two of the incisors fully developed in its gums. In such cases, did the permanent teeth come earlier than in ordinary cases, and when teeth were developed in utero, were there three sets of teeth?

Mr. Charles Clark mentioned two cases in which pregnancy appeared to him to have been prolonged in one instance to ten, in the other to eleven months.

Mr. W. A. Harrison remarked, that in cases where teeth were developed so early as in Dr. Smith's case, they fell out early, the gums remaining bare for some time before the permanent teeth presented themselves, but the child had not three sets of teeth.

Mr. I. B. Brown and Mr. Dendy remarked, that it was not rare to observe cases in which children cried before the shoulders were delivered.—*Lancet.*

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*On the Volatile Oil of Erigeron Canadense.* By William Proctor, Jr.—This volatile oil has recently been introduced into medical practice by the "Eclectic" physicians, who esteem it for its medicinal powers. The specimen of the oil submitted to examination was labelled "Oil of Erigeron, American Chemical Institute, New York." It has a light straw color, is very limpid, has a peculiar aromatic, not unpleasant odor, somewhat analogous to oil of hemlock (Abies Canadensis,) which is extremely persistent; its taste is peculiar, mild, and not very pungent. Its density very low, being according to the mean of two careful observations .845; it is very inflammable, burning with an abundant sooty flame, begins to boil at the temperature of 310° Fahr., and continues rising till 365°, showing that there must be two volatile

oils. It distils *per se* unchanged and colorless, leaving a small oleo-resinous residue in the retort, which is oxidized oil. When a globule of potassium is thrown into the commercial or the recently distilled oil, it acts on it with the elimination of gaseous matter (hydrogen?) from the entire surface of the globule, and the action continues until the metal disappears. The oil at first assumes a reddish brown color, which becomes deeper and finally causes a gelatinous residue, to separate which is probably a resinate of potassa. The oil is, therefore, highly oxygenous.

Hydrate of potassa acts on oil of erigeron slowly, turning it of a reddish color. Powdered iodine combines with it without explosion. Fuming nitric acid at ordinary temperatures acts slowly; but when heated, explosively; sulphuric acid instantly decomposes it. The oil is very soluble in ether and anhydrous alcohol, but moderately in commercial (.835) alcohol.

The volatile oil of Erigeron Canadense, when taken internally, acts as a stimulant carminative, like many of the milder volatile oils, but it is also said to possess a peculiar and efficient power as an anti-hæmorrhagic, especially in uterine hæmorrhage. It has been found useful (American Eclectic Dispensatory, page 451,) in diarrhœa, dysentery, hæmoptysis, hæmatamesis, menorrhagia, and externally mixed with castor oil or stramonium ointment, in hæmorrhoids.

The dose internally is from 4 to 10 drops, mixed with sugar and water. In uterine hemorrhage the dose should be repeated at short intervals (10 or 15 minutes,) till relief is obtained.—*American Journal of Pharmacy.*

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*Sulphate of Quinidinia.*—Last year, Dr. William Pepper, Physician to the Pennsylvania Hospital, published an account of the results of substituting sulphate of cinchona for sulphate of quinia in intermittent fever, and so successful did it prove that he has since continued to use it in his hospital practice. In April last, at the suggestion of Dr. Conrad, Dr. Pepper made a trial of *sulphate of quinidin* (the third alkaloid in cinchona bark,) in several cases of intermittent, with such decided success, that he is disposed to believe that quinidin is more active than either of the other alkaloids. These results corroborate a similar trial in two obstinate cases of intermittent, by Dr. Helfrick of this city, which had a like result. If these observations are supported by other testimony, we shall not hear of the rejection of cinchona barks because in the aggregate of alkaloids there happens to be *less than one per cent. of quinia.* —*Am. Jour. of Pharmacy.*

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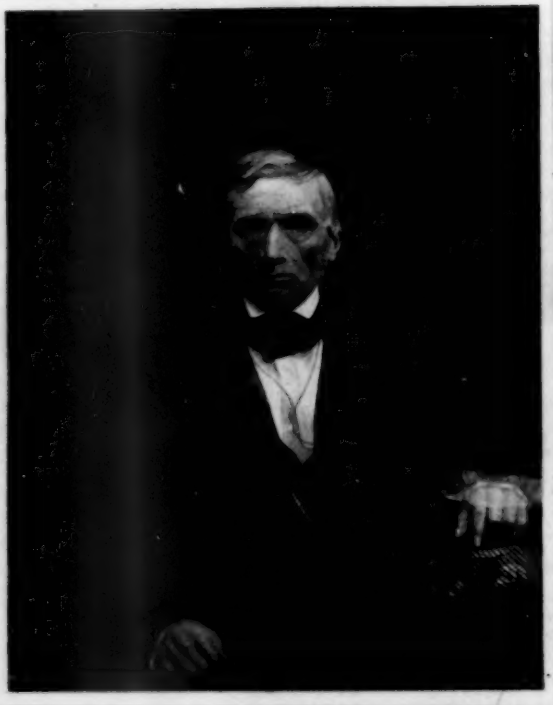
*Rheumatism.*—We recommend to our readers the following prescription for the cure of this most unmanageable disease:—℞. Liq. potassæ, gtt. xv.; potass. iodidi, gr. ij; mucil. acaciæ, f ʒj; aq. distill., f ʒxi. M. ft. haust.—℞. potass. iodidi, ℈ij., morph. muriat., ℈ss.; ung. cetacei, ʒiss. Ft. ung.—℞. Opii. purif., gr. j; extr. colch. acet., gr. ij.; pulv. scam. co., gr. iij. M. ft. pil. iv.—*Virginia Med. and Surg. Journal.*

Nov. 6, 1854.



Yours truly

R. D. Mussey

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